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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: November 6, 1996

SUBJECT: Comments on the Native Species Revegetation Study Section in Pre-Design Studies, Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill, Calhoun County, MI, October 14, 1996, prepared by Woodward-Clyde for Cooper Industries and Corning, Inc.

FROM: James Chapman, Ph.D., Ecologist, Technical Support Section 

TO: Leah Evison, RPM, Remedial Response Section 6

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above mentioned report. I only reviewed the native plant section. My comments are listed below:

4.1.5. Planting and Maintenance

p. 4-4 1st complete paragraph, 1st sentence

The statement that the vegetative cover will consist of "shallow rooted grasses" is potentially misleading. All of the native grasses listed in section 4.1.5.2 will root to 5 feet or greater depths in favorable soils. However, these grasses are capable of establishing and maintaining themselves on shallow soils.

4.1.5.2. Seed Mixture

p. 4-4 at bottom to top of p. 4-5

The total seeding rate for native grasses, 18 lbs/acre, is near the upper recommended range for prairie restoration (Rock 1981), however, this rate may be appropriate if forbs are not included in the mix. If forbs are to be included, the total native grass seeding rate should be closer to 10 or 12 lbs/acre (Rock 1981).

The annual rye nurse crop seeding rate, 15 lbs/acre, is overly high. Rock (1981) recommends 2 lbs/acre or less.

I may be contacted at 6-7195 if you have questions or comments. Please fill out the attached evaluation form and return it to Steve Ostrodka, SRT-4J. The information is used to assess and improve our services.

cc: Steve Ostrodka, Section Chief, TSS
Sally Averill, Section Chief, RRS#6

Literature Cited

Rook, H. 1981. *Prairie Propagation Handbook*. 6th ed. Wehr Nature Center, Whitnall Park, Hales Corners, WI, Milwaukee County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Culture. 74 p.